



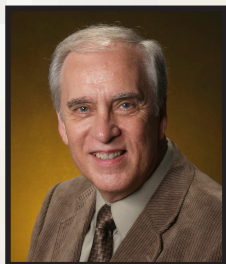
**Friendship  
INTERNATIONAL**  
*Empowered by the Holy Spirit,  
Reaching Out to a Needy World*

**UPDATE**  
**MONTHLY ...**  
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**Del Huff**  
Executive Director

### Guiding Children to God

God has placed in our hands as brief, but concentrated times to spend with children throughout the year. In this edition we encourage friends to come and be a part in sharing the beautiful Christmas story during the Advent season in several Romanian orphanages. And this summer we are entrusted with hundreds of children at Friendship Camp, to have input into their lives and share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Here are some thoughts on the importance of being a part of a child's life in today's world.

An outspoken atheist believes it's immoral for parents to teach their children religion as though it were actually true. He even claims that parents who pass along their faith to their children are committing child abuse. Though these views are extreme, I do hear from parents who are hesitant to boldly encourage their children toward faith. While most of us readily hope to influence our children with our view of politics or nutrition or sports, for some reason some of us treat our convictions about God differently.

In contrast, Paul wrote of how Timothy had been taught "from infancy . . . the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 3:15). Timothy didn't arrive at faith as an adult through the power of his own, unaided reason. Rather, his mother nurtured his heart toward God; then he continued in what he had learned (v. 14). God is the source of true wisdom, so it's vital for us to tenderly cultivate a love for God in our families.

There are many belief systems that are influencing our children. TV shows, movies, music, teachers, friends, the media—each of these carry assumptions (either obvious or under the radar) about faith that exert real influence. May we choose not to be silent. The beauty and grace we've experienced compels us to guide our children toward God. (from our Daily Bread)

**Pray with us for our missionary teams.**

## *Our Eighth Annual Christmas Markets of Europe Mission Trip* November 24 - December 5, 2023 12 Days - 11 Nights



**This will be our first Christmas Mission Trip since COVID.** We are full of anticipation and want to invite you to join us on what could be the most unique trip you will ever experience. Your trip starts by visiting the world-renown Christmas markets of Europe. We will visit Germany, Austria, Hungary and Romania.

European Christmas celebration still centers around an Advent market that, in most cases, fills the town square, in front of the cathedral.

It all begins on first advent weekend, and has for hundreds upon hundreds of years.

These markets are where the awe of the holiday comes alive in grand tradition—smells of gingerbread and roasting sausages waft through the cold air, handmade ornaments



adorn fir trees, master glassblowers and other artisans ply their crafts in wooden stalls, shoppers bustle past Gothic church facades and half-timbered houses.



We will continue our travels eastward to Romania where our missionaries will arrange for us to host Christmas parties in several local orphanages. At these parties we will play games, sing Christmas carols, have a snack and share Christmas gifts with the children.



*But the most important part of the party will be sharing the wonderful story of Jesus' birth, God's gift to us, by way of a short program and skit.*

**PRICE: \$3095.-**  
**Package Price Includes:**

- Round trip airfare from the U.S. to Munich, Germany and return from Budapest, Hungary. (economy class)
  - The price is per person, double occupancy • A total of 22 meals (11 breakfasts, continental style; 11 evening meals), plus in-flight international meals • Land transportation in Europe • Comprehensive sight-seeing program including the services of local guides for select attractions • Service charges, taxes, and tips as related to hotels and restaurants
- NOT INCLUDED:** Entrance fees for museums tourist attractions, and lunches.

For more infos and application form, go to [www.friendshipintl.org](http://www.friendshipintl.org)  
Click on "Send Me" and download the brochure • **Application deadline: Oct. 20, 2023**





## We Are Encouraged To See God's Hand At Work

by Adi Muscan, Director, Romania

We are right in the middle of our camp season. It's not easy. We are slowly wearing down. Our strength is being tested more and more everyday. We start our days at 6 AM, shopping at the open market and driving to the camp, piking up some kids along the way. We are now 78 at the camp, we had some rain, colder

weather than usual, but everybody is doing fine, they have extra blankets to keep themselves warm, thanks to recent donations this year, we were able to buy new blankets for all of the beds. Thank the Lord and our friends for that big blessing.



I've had several kids who came to me this summer and said they started coming to Friendship Camp many years ago, when they were just small children and now they are teenagers. And camp was the place where their hearts and eyes were opened. They learned not only to socialize and have fun with other kids but started understanding how to respect and get along with others. And how to do basic things they didn't learn in the orphanage or even in their homes, like how to use silverware to eat

properly and respect others at the table while they were eating, or learning to be aware of the needs of others and help them. And how to play nice and be fair with other kids; to keep themselves and their space clean, and above all, to seek God's help and ask Him for guidance in their lives.



More and more we are seeing Friendship Camp becoming a place where kids are building character and a foundation for their lives. We are understanding more and more how important our part is in helping them add "building blocks" of understanding what it means to grow in the Lord. We are grateful, we are blessed, to be a part in this spiritual journey each of our camp kids are experiencing.

Our hope and prayer is that this growth in the Lord will continue even after they return to their homes. And we look forward to seeing many of them again next year. We're excited to see how they mature in the Lord when they return.



Please pray with us as we come closer to the close of camp, that we will remain strong and persevere in our responsibility to be Influencers of God's word in the lives of each child who comes to camp. And that their hearts will be prepared to receive the blessed message of Jesus' love and the sacrifice He has made for each one of them.



## REMEMBERING F.I.'S FIRST MISSIONARY TRIP TO ROMANIA Chapter 3

by Natalie Klostermann

**Editor's Note:** Natalie's story continues. This is Chapter 3. Here is a brief statement from the last article from July UPDATE'23. If you are interested, you may catch up from the first article by going to [friendshipintl.org](http://friendshipintl.org), click on UPDATE and open the June '23 edition.

In closing of last month's article, Natalie was explaining her first experiences, staying in the home of a Romanian family and difficulties with the living conditions caused by the former dictator, plus her unforgettable visit to a Romanian orphanage. She found it extremely hard to say good-bye to the children, who begged her to stay. And now the story continues.

From the orphanage, my next point of service was the Sports Camp.



When we arrived all the kids were in turmoil and upset. I found out that communist



soldiers had raided their camp. They came in with machine guns and were very intimidating. But the adult leaders of the camp stood up to them and told them they were from the USA. At this time, in these transitional years it carried a lot of weight and the soldiers backed down and left. I shared with our team who were leading the camp that it should always be considered a privilege to be intimidated and suffer for Jesus sake. They now had a story to tell others back home of the Lord's faithfulness in protecting them. God is Good!

**Editor's Note:** To be continued, Chapter 4